Agriculture Infrastructure Development Programme

3712. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the Agriculture Infrastructure Development Programme came into force;

(b) the objectives of the programme;

(c) the number of farmers benefitted till December, 1996 under the programme, State-wise;

(d) the nature of benefits reaped by the farmers under the Agriculture Infrastructure Development Programme; and

(e) the programme formulated for 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Rural infrastructure development fund was constituted in April, 1995.

(b) The objective of the programme is to provide loans to State Governments and State-owned Corporations for completion of on-going projects relating to major, medium and minor irrigation, soil conservation, watershed management, flood protection schemes and other forms of rural infrastructure like rural roads and bridges.

(c) and (d) On completion of the on-going projects financed through Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, it is expected to create irrigation potential in about 22.89 lakh ha. generating rural employment of 1755 lakh Mandays and it would help in realising additional production valued at Rs. 2712 crores.

(e) In view of the success and popularisation gained in the implementation of Rural Infrastructure I & II, it is proposed to launch Rural Infrastructure Development Fund-III during the year 1997-98 with a corpus of Rs. 2,500 crores.

[English]

Forest Land to Private Individuals

3713. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are allotting or propose to allot the forest land for the development purposes to private bodies and individuals;

(b) if so, the grounds on which the land is to be allotted and rules in this regard; and

(c) the names of private bodies and individuals to whom forest land has been allotted in Gujarat, Maharashtra and other States during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) Allotment of forest land is not made by the Central Government. However, State Governments are required to obtain prior approval of Central Government for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and rules and guidelines framed thereunder.

Problems Faced by Delhi Police

3714. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems faced by the Delhi Police;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to resolve their problems particularly that of the accommodation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) There is no major problem being faced by the Delhi Police personnel as such except that there is shortage of housing. Plan assistance is being provided for Police housing. There is also a proposal to set up a Police Housing Corporation.

Hike in Wheat Price

3715. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the consumer States of wheat have raised strong objection to the open market sale price of wheat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to review the price hike of wheat;

(d) if so, whether any weightage is likely to be given to the consumer States in the matter;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (f) In view of the representations received from some of the consumer States, the prices effective from 4.2.1997 were reviewed and it was decided to revise them. A statement indicating the prices for open sale of wheat revised on 4.2.1997 and 10.3.1997 is attached as statement.